



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2010

Contact: Ed Maddox 213-361-6980
James Bolden 213-200-5314

SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS CALLS FOR ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM POLICY TO GUIDE COUNTY'S PROCESS FOR LOCATING MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

LOS ANGELES — Citing concerns that, unlike other federal, state and local jurisdictions, Los Angeles County has no uniform policy or decision making process when considering alternative locations for multiple municipal facilities, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today urged the Board to consider ways to improve efficiencies by adopting a uniform location and financial review policy.

The County's Community Development Commission (CDC) has begun consolidating its existing facilities from Monterey Park and Santa Fe Springs into a single cost-effective facility. But given the lack of a clear policy to guide its decision making, the recommended option raises several important questions, including the criteria used in selecting the location, its cost effectiveness, and other alternatives.

"Given today's financial and real estate markets, a variety of options, including leasing or purchasing existing buildings, should also be considered in addition to starting new construction," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

"In a County that spans over 4,000 square miles, with over 10 million constituents, providing a centrally-located and easily accessible administrative facility for the Community Development Commission (CDC) should be a high priority," the Supervisor added,

However, key factors should be considered in selecting a location, including economic development potential, public transit access, availability of affordable housing, and the impact on existing, historic, or culturally significant buildings.

“A comprehensive long-term economic cost analysis of alternatives should also be prepared, as the location of County facilities is one of the most important economic decisions that the Board makes,” the Supervisor said.

The County’s Chief Executive Officer, working in conjunction with CDC, will report back to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days with a draft policy for consideration.

“We must ensure that Los Angeles County’s significant capital investments give serious consideration to the impacts that site selections have on improving social, economic, environmental and cultural conditions in the communities we serve,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

#